

Dashing dachshund

Art show benefits Doggie Diner restoration efforts

By Tiffany Maleshefski

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Parked on the sidewalk in front of The Canvas, an eatery and art gallery in the Inner Sunset, three gigantic dachshund heads wearing chef hats and bow ties gazed out into the steamy night.

The droopy-eyed fiberglass statues, which once adorned restaurants of the now-defunct Doggie Diner chain, were on hand last Thursday to welcome guests and set the tone at *Doggie Daze*. The event, an art reception and fund-raiser, was held to raise money to restore a similarly dapper, but currently ailing, Doggie Diner dachshund — which crashed from its rusty pole during a windstorm at the Carousel Restaurant, on Sloat Boulevard, April 1.

The dachshund's nose caved in as a result of the incident. The statue is currently awaiting repair at the Department of Public Works headquarters.

"On April 1, when [the Doggie Diner head] blew down, we thought maybe we shouldn't do this show," said Anna Conti, the event's featured artist, who



PHOTO COURTESY HANG AT THE CANVAS

Doggie Diner, Ocean Park, *an acrylic painting by Anna L. Conti. Conti displayed her work at a recent event to raise funds for restoration of the Doggie Diner advertising icon, which collapsed in high winds April 1.*

noted that the fund-raiser for the deteriorating statue was scheduled prior to the windstorm disaster that drew attention to its plight. "But he's so fun, so happy, so San Francisco," said Conti of her

floppy-eared subject.

Nearly 20 paintings by Conti of the Doggie Diner dachshund were on view at the event, and fans of the

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